

authorizing the deletion of the sequence of record and the insertion of the December 12, 2000 sequence listing into the application, thereby rendering the Examiner's request moot.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in this application prior to examination. Early and favorable consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**Please amend Claims 26, 43 and 44 as follows:**

26. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding or complementary to a [sequence] nucleic acid which encodes a polypeptide comprising [an amino acid sequence having at least about 70% similarity to] SEQ ID NO:6.

43. (Amended) A process for the production of a biologically active VEGF-like protein comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide [having at least about 70% similarity to] comprising SEQ ID NO:6 in a host and isolating said VEGF-like protein.

44. (Amended) The method according to Claim 43 wherein said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO:5 [or has at least about 70% similarity to SEQ ID NO:5] or hybridizes under low stringency conditions to [a reverse complement of the nucleotide sequence of] a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO:5.

**Please add the following new claim:**

45. (New) The method according to Claim 44 wherein said low stringency conditions comprise 4-6x SSC/0.1-0.5% w/v SDS at 37°C to 45°C for 2 to 3 hours.